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25X1 DRIG: GACarver, Jr.

INIT: DCI/SAVA

DATE: 17 Jan. 1968

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

BY: 38 PER #

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INFO: FILE . VR CS/RF, DCI, D/DCI, DDP

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GAC GWA CJS TAD

JBJ JFR DWB SAA

CITE DIRECTOR

HGB EF. MEE TAW LRP

JAN 17 21 37 Z F

25X1 TO SAIGON

1. IN INFORMAL 17 JANUARY CONVERSATION, SECRETARY RUSK

25X1 ASKED [] WHAT SVN LEGISLATURE AND MEMBERS THEREOF, PARTICULARLY LOWER HOUSE, THOUGHT ABOUT CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS (E. G., THIEU PERFORMANCE, THANG RESIGNATION MATTER, PEACE ISSUE, ETC.). SECRETARY APPARENTLY HAD A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY IN MIND: WHAT WERE LEGISLATORS TALKING AND THINKING ABOUT? WHAT WERE THEY DOING? DID LEGISLATORS YET COUNT AS SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN LOCAL POLITICAL EQUATION? IF NOT, WHEN WERE THEY LIKELY TO BEGIN TO MAKE THEMSELVES FELT? DID THE LEGISLATURE, AGAIN PARTICULARLY THE LOWER HOUSE, CONSTITUTE A MECHANISM OR POWER SOURCE WHICH GVN (ESPECIALLY THIEU) COULD USE AS COUNTERPOISE TO GENERALS OR, CONVERSELY, A BODY WHICH ON ITS OWN COULD BRING EFFECTIVE PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THIEU AND THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT?

2. THOUGH SOME OF ABOVE POINTS ALREADY COVERED IN RECENT.

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ORIG: GACarver, Jr.

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PAGE TWO

CITE DIRECTOR

TO [STATION COMMENTS AND DISSEMS, REQUEST YOU PREPARE A WRAP UP
ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT MOOD, ACTIONS, AND POLITICAL POTENTIAL 25X1
OF THE LEGISLATURE, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE LOWER HOUSE. 25X1

[ALSO REQUEST THAT IN DISCREET MANNER YOU TALK TO
BUNKER (AND PERHAPS HABIB) INDICATING THAT MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND
ENERGETIC REPORTING ON THESE MATTERS BY THE EMBASSY WOULD BE
WELL-RECEIVED IN THE DEPARTMENT.

END OF MESSAGE

C []

C/FE

DDP

25X1

25X1

Richard Helms
RICHARD HELMS
DCI

GEORGE A. CARVER, JR.
SAVA

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